

**JOINT RESOLUTION ON COMBATING AND
REDUCING GANG ACTIVITY**

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution of the Legislature urges state and local governments to work together to combat and reduce gang activity.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- urges state and local governments to take a comprehensive, collaborative, and communitywide approach to combat and reduce gang activity; and
- expresses support for sports, arts, academic, targeted counseling, and employment programs to counter gang recruitment.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, the limitless potential of children, youth, and adults is jeopardized when they fall prey to gang recruitment and intimidation;

WHEREAS, gang activity jeopardizes the civil rights, safety, and well-being of all members of the community, whether individuals are associated with gangs or not;

WHEREAS, gangs become chronic and serious problems in communities where key organizations are inadequately integrated and sufficient resources are not available to target gang-involved youth;

WHEREAS, gang activity should be understood as a complex socioeconomic phenomena that requires political and educational approaches as well as cultural awareness, appropriate prevention and intervention, family and community wellness, and gang specialist and police intervention strategies;

WHEREAS, the most effective way to address gang violence is through a

comprehensive, collaborative, and communitywide approach;

WHEREAS, gang activity can be reduced in targeted neighborhoods by incorporating a broad spectrum of research-based interventions to address the range of personal, family, and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and gang activity;

WHEREAS, four key concepts for gang prevention and intervention are identifying the needs at the individual, family, and community level and addressing those needs with a coordinated, comprehensive response; conducting an inventory of human and financial resources in the community and creating plans to fill in gaps in services and leveraging existing resources to support effective gang reduction strategies; applying research-based programs across appropriate age ranges, risk factor categories, and agency boundaries; and encouraging coordination and integration of resources at the local, state, and federal levels;

WHEREAS, the goal of primary prevention is to focus on the entire population and high-crime, high-risk communities;

WHEREAS, the goal of intervention is to focus on active gang members and their close associates to provide a combination of services and opportunities, while holding these groups accountable for their actions;

WHEREAS, the goal of suppression is to focus on gang leaders by undertaking aggressive prosecution efforts; and

WHEREAS, local, state, and federal resources should be integrated to incorporate state-of-the-art practices in prevention, intervention, and suppression to enhance pro-social influences in the community:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah strongly urges state and local government agencies, through a comprehensive, collaborative, and communitywide approach, to work to reduce gang activity in targeted neighborhoods by incorporating a broad spectrum of research-based interventions to address the range of personal, family, cultural, and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and gang activity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges communities, civil rights groups, media, elected officials, gang prevention specialists, educational, cultural, and law enforcement organizations, the community, and active gang members to work towards mediating conflict and suppressing gang violence.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature expresses support for sports, arts,
64 academic, targeted counseling, and employment programs as a means to enhance the future of
65 the community and counter gang recruitment.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah League
67 of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, the Utah Department of Public Safety,
68 the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, the Utah State Office of Education,
69 and the Utah Department of Health and Human Services.

Legislative Review Note
as of 9-28-09 10:12 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel